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FOREST INSECT LABORATORY,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA.

cc: R.O.
Forest Supervisor
Dist. Ranger
Craighead

FOREST INSECT SURVEY

LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

Season of 1941

Conditions on the Figueroa Mountain area were looked over by C. E. Dunston of the Regional Office and by J. M. Miller and D. DeLeon of the Forest Insect Laboratory at Berkeley on October 29, 1941. Because of limited time, no other pine areas on this forest were covered. Following are notes made during this brief examination.

Figueroa Lookout Picnic Ground

A fairly large ponderosa pine infested by the western pine beetle was treated in this camp ground last winter. The treating work had been very efficiently done and all infested bark had been disposed of.

Two ponderosa pines of the 1941 overwintering generation were found in the same locality. One contained heavy broods of the western pine beetle, and the other was infested by pine flatheads.

A recent windfall was found near this camp ground which had produced heavy 1941 summer broods of Ips and the western pine beetle.

Three ponderosa pines and one Coulter pine were spotted on the slopes of the Figueroa Lookout which appeared to be infested by overwintering broods of the western pine beetle. One 16 inch tree along the road had been killed by Ips oregoni.

East Pinery

No winter brood trees were spotted in the East Pinery, but two red topped Coulter pines were found which had been killed by the 1941 summer broods of the western pine beetle. Two windfalls were also located which had produced good summer broods of Dendroctonus and Ips.

The special use and camp ground area looked fairly clean.

Considerable topkilling in Coulter pine and ponderosa was observed, which was widely scattered over all areas. The length of topkill was only a few feet. One of these trees was climbed and the only insect connected with the injury was Pityophthorus.

Digger pine is dying to some extent in the fringe type. One dying tree which was examined contained the work of flatheads and Ips latidens.

General Conditions

Persistence of the western pine beetle infestation following the control work of last spring may be explained by the windfalls. Apparently more than the normal number of windfalls occurred last winter and these attracted the beetles during the first flight in the spring. Windfalls that were examined had produced heavy broods. By late summer there was a fairly strong population of western pine beetle which attacked the overwintering trees now scattered through the pine type.

It was estimated that the number of overwintering infested trees on the Figueroa, East Pinery, and special use areas may total 25. Treatment of all trees infested by the western pine beetle and the pine flathead is recommended. Topkilled trees will not require attention.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Miller
Senior Entomologist

Berkeley, California
December 9, 1941